

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION 50X1-HUM

1. Mining in the lead and barite mine in Sitarjevac, near Litijs, which is under the direction of the Mezice lead mine and foundry, is executed under exceptionally difficult and adverse conditions. The main tunnels are under the level of the Sava river and constant inundations slow the work. Moreover, accidents are very frequent because the pumps do not function well and a stop of half an hour is enough to cause the collapse of the main tunnel. Eight deaths occurred in 1950 and there was a great number of injured.
2. The lead ore from this mine was transported by railroad to the Mezice foundry where the ore is used in the manufacture of water pipes.
3. In early December 1950, the group engaged on new tunnels found a new vein of lead in the direction of Zavrstnik Village. Geologists estimate that the new vein can give from one to one and a half million tons of crude ore, very rich in lead. The Mine Directorate immediately informed the competent ministry in Ljubljana, which appointed a commission, headed by Professor of Geology Alojz Mernik, to investigate the new vein. After three days, the commission reported very favorably and proposed the installations for the cleaning of the ore be erected near the Sitarjevac mine itself. The commission's proposal was accepted, and by the beginning of January the initial work began. According to calculations, by the summer of 1951 the lead ore will be refined in Sitarjevac so that transport expenses to Mezica will be reduced, for only the pure ore will be forwarded.
4. The Sitarjevac Mine also produces barite, which is necessary to Yugoslav industry in the production of colors. The capacity of the Sitarjevac mine is as follows:
 - a. The lead mine. Before the opening of the new vein, maximum capacity was 6 carloads a day; after the opening of the new vein it will be 8 to 10 carloads a day.
 - b. The barite mine. Two years ago the barite vein was very strong. It is gradually weakening, however, and does not give more than 2 to 3 carloads daily. There are no prospects for the opening of some new vein.

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5. The Administrative Director of the mine is Josko Mojstrovac. The Technical Director is Engineer Mitja Burlin and the Political Manager is Borut Iremel. Administrative and technical personnel of the mine totals 17 employees, 6 of whom work in the Directorate. There are 468 miners, 100 of whom are convicts condemned to forced labor for 10 years. The convicts are employed in the most dangerous areas. Until October 1950, the mining was executed in two shifts of eight hours each, but, because of the fatiguing work, it is now done in three shifts of six hours each.
6. The water pumps are obsolete and frequently out of order. Since the administration is slow and spare parts are not available, the miners themselves are very often forced to pay for repairs in order to protect their own lives.
7. The miners have their own mess, where, until October 1950, the food was fairly good and provided the adequate number of calories necessary for heavy work. In November and especially in December, however, the food worsened in quality and diminished in quantity, so that many miners became ill. The physician of the mine, Dr. Miroslav Lukac sends the miners for a rest in the mountains for a week after which the miners return to work a little strengthened.
8. Almost 60 per cent of the miners have tuberculosis; but the clinic has neither penicillin nor streptomycin. Those miners condemned to forced labor are not sent to the doctor when ill, but to the clinic attendant who gives them an unspecified pill and sends them back to work. Cases of death are very frequent among the convicts who are lodged in a barrack which had been constructed by the Germans. The convicts are constantly watched by the militia guard.

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